

## WEE

- He wand'ring feeds  
On slowly growing herbs and ranker weeds. *Sandys.*  
Too much manuring fill'd that field with weeds,  
While fests, like locusts, did destroy the feeds. *Denham.*  
Stinking weeds and poisonous plants have their use. *Mor.*  
When they are cut, let them lie, if weedy, to kill the  
weeds. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
Their virtue, like their Tyber's flood  
Rolling, its course design'd the country's good;  
But oft the torrent's too impetuous speed,  
From the low earth tore some polluting weed;  
And with the blood of Jove there always ran  
Some viler part, some tincture of the man. *Prior.*  
2. [Weeda, Saxon; weed, Dutch.] A garment; cloaths; habit;  
drefs. Now scarce in use, except in *widow's weeds*, the mourn-  
ing drefs of a widow. *Hooker.*  
My mind for *weeds* your virtue's livery wears. *Sidney.*  
Neither is it any man's business to cloath all his servants  
with one *weed*; nor theirs to cloath themselves so, if left to  
their own judgments. *Hooker.*  
They meet upon the way  
An aged fire, in long black *weeds* yelad;  
His feet all bare, his beard all hoary gray,  
And by his belt his book he hanging had. *Fairy Queen.*  
Livery is also called the upper *weed* which a serving man  
wears, so called as it was delivered and taken from him at  
pleasure. *Spenser.*  
The snake throws her enamell'd skin,  
Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in. *Shakespeare.*  
Throngs of knights and barons bold,  
In *weeds* of peace high triumphs hold,  
With store of ladies. *Milton.*  
Lately your fair hand in woman's *weed*  
Wrapp'd my glad head. *Waller.*  
To WEED. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To rid of noxious plants.  
When you sow the berries of bays, *weed* not the borders  
for the first half year; for the weed giveth them shade. *Bacon.*  
Your feedings having flood 'till June, bestow a *weeding* or  
a slight howing upon them. *Mortimer.*  
2. To take away noxious plants.  
Oh Marcius,  
Each word thou'lt spoke hath *weeded* from my heart  
A root of ancient envy. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*  
3. To free from any thing hurtful or offensive.  
He *weeded* the kingdom of such as were devoted to Eliaiana,  
and manumiz'd it from that most dangerous confederacy.  
*Howel's Vocal Forest.*  
Sarcasms, contumelies, and invectives, fill so many pages  
of our controversial writings, that, were those *weeded* out,  
many volumes would be reduced to a more moderate bulk and  
temper. *Decay of Piety.*  
4. To root out vice.  
Wife fathers be not as well aware in *weeding* from their  
children ill things, as they were before in grafting in them  
learning. *Sham's Schoolmaster.*  
One by one, as they appeared, they might all be *weeded*  
out, without any signs that ever they had been there. *Locke.*  
WEEDER. *n. f.* [from *weed*.] One that takes away any thing  
noxious.  
A *weeder* out of his proud adversaries,  
A liberal rewarder of his friends. *Shakespeare, Richard III.*  
WEEDHOOK. *n. f.* [*weed* and *hook*.] A hook by which weeds  
are cut away or extirpated.  
In May get a *weedhook*, a crotch, and a glove,  
And weed out such weeds as the corn doth not love. *Tusser.*  
WEEDLESS. *adj.* [from *weed*.] Free from weeds; free from  
any thing useless or noxious.  
So many *weedless* paradises be,  
Which of themselves produce no venomous fin. *Donne.*  
A crystal brook,  
When troubled most it does the bottom show;  
'Tis *weedless* all above, and rockless all below. *Dryden.*  
WEEDY. *adj.* [from *weed*.]  
1. Consisting of weeds.  
There on the pendant boughs, her coronet weed  
Clamb'ring to hang, an envious silver broke,  
When down her *weedy* trophies and herself  
Fell in the weeping brook. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*  
2. Abounding with weeds.  
Hid in a *weedy* lake all night I lay,  
Secure of safety. *Dryden's F. n.*  
If it is *weedy*, let it lie upon the ground. *Mortimer.*  
WEEK. *n. f.* [from *wece*, Saxon; *weke*, Dutch; *wecka*, Swedish.]  
The space of seven days.  
Fulfil her *week*, and we will give thee this also. *Gen. xxix.*  
WEEKDAY. *n. f.* [*week* and *day*.] Any day not Sunday.  
One solid dish his *weekday* meal affords,  
An added pudding solemniz'd the Lord's. *Pope.*  
WEEKLY. *adj.* [from *week*.] Happening, produced, or done  
once a week; hebdomadary.

## WEE

- The Jews had always their *weekly* readings of the law of  
Moses. *Hooker.*  
So liv'd our fires, ere doctors learn'd to kill,  
And multiply'd with heirs their *weekly* bill. *Dryden.*  
Nothing more frequent in their *weekly* papers, than affecting  
to confound the terms of clergy and high-church, and then  
loading the latter with calumny. *Swift.*  
WEEKLY. *adv.* [from *week*.] Once a week; by hebdomadal  
periods.  
These are obliged to perform divine worship in their turns  
*weekly*, and are sometimes called hebdomadal canons. *Ascham.*  
WEEK. *n. f.* [from *wece*, Saxon; *weke*, Dutch.] To think;  
to imagine; to form a notion; to fancy. Obsolete.  
1. A whirlpool.  
2. A twiggan snare or trap for fish, [perhaps from *weilow*.]  
To WEEN. *v. n.* [from *wean*, Saxon; *weenen*, Dutch.] To think;  
to imagine; to form a notion; to fancy. Obsolete.  
Ah lady dear, quoth then the gentle knight,  
Well may I *ween* your grief is wondrous great. *Spenser.*  
So well it her belcoms, that ye would *ween*  
Some angel had been. *Spenser's Epithalamium.*  
When *weening* to return, whence they did stray,  
They cannot find that path which first was shown;  
But wander to and fro in ways unknown,  
Furthest from end then, when they nearest *ween*. *Fa. Queen.*  
Thy father, in pity of my hard distress,  
Levy'd an army, *weening* to redeem  
And reinstate me in the diadem. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*  
Ween you of better luck,  
I mean, in perjur'd witness, than your master,  
Whose minister you are, while here he liv'd  
Upon this naughty earth. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
They *ween'd*  
That self-same day, by fight or by surprize,  
To win the mount of God; and on his throne  
To set the envier of his state, the proud  
Aspirer; but their thoughts prov'd fond and vain. *Milton.*  
To WEEP. *v. n.* preter. and part. pass. *weep'd*. [from *weapan*,  
Saxon.]  
1. To show sorrow by tears.  
In that sad time  
My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear;  
And what these sorrows could not hence exhale,  
That beauty hath, and made them blind with *weeping*, *Shak.*  
I fear he will prove the *weeping* philosopher when he grows  
old, being so full of unmanly sadness in his youth. *Shakespeare.*  
The days of *weeping* and mourning for Moses were ended.  
*Deut. xxxiv. 8.*  
Have you *wept* for your sin, so that you were indeed sorrow-  
ful in your spirit? Are you so sorrowful that you hate it? Do  
you loathe it that you have left it? *Taylor.*  
Away, with women *weep*, and leave me here,  
Fix'd, like a man, to die without a tear,  
Or save, or slay us both. *Dryden.*  
A corps it was, but whose it was, unknown;  
Yet mov'd, howe'er, she made the case her own;  
Took the bad omen of a shipwreck'd man,  
As for a stranger *weep*. *Dryden.*  
When Darius *wept* over his army, that within a single age  
not a man of all that confluence would be left alive, Artaba-  
nus improv'd his meditation by adding, that yet all of them  
should meet with so many evils, that every one should wish  
himself dead long before. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*  
This lovely *weeping* fair cannot be dearer to thee,  
Than thou art to thy faithful Scordid. *Rare.*  
2. To shed tears from any passion.  
Then they for sudden joy did *weep*,  
And I for sorrow sung,  
That such a king should play bo-peep,  
And go the fools among. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*  
3. To lament; to complain.  
They *weep* unto me, saying, give us flesh that we may eat. *Num.*  
To WEEP. *v. a.*  
1. To lament with tears; to bewail; to bemoan.  
If thou wilt *weep* my fortunes, take my eyes. *Shakespeare.*  
Nor was I near to close his dying eyes,  
To wash his wounds, to *weep* his obsequies. *Dryden.*  
We wand'ring go  
Through dreary wastes, and *weep* each other's woe. *Pope.*  
2. To shed moisture.  
Thus was this place  
A happy rural seat of various view,  
Groves whose rich trees *weep* od'rous gums and balm. *Milton.*  
Let India boast her plants, nor envy we  
The *weeping* amber or the balmy tree,  
While by our oaks the precious loads are borne,  
And realms command'd which those trees adorn. *Pope.*  
3. To abound with wet.  
Rey-grass grows on clayey and *weeping* grounds. *Mortimer.*  
WEEPER. *n. f.* [from *weep*.]  
1. One who sheds tears; a lamer; a bewailer; a mourner.  
If you have served God in a holy life, send away the wo-  
men

## WEI

- men and the *weepers*: tell them it is as much intemperance to  
weep too much as to laugh too much: if thou art alone, or  
with fitting company, die as thou should'st; but do not die  
impatiently, and like a fox caught in a trap. *Taylor.*  
Laughter is easy; but the wonder lies,  
What store of brine supply'd the *weeper's* eyes. *Dryden.*  
2. A white border on the sleeve of a mourning coat.  
WEIRISH. *adj.* [See WEARISH.] This old word is used by  
Ascham in a sense which the lexicographers seem not to have  
known. Applied to tastes, it means insipid; applied to the  
body, weak and wat'ry: here it seems to mean sour; furly.  
A voice not soft, weak, piping, womanish; but audible,  
strong, and manlike: a countenance not *weirish* and crabbed,  
but fair and comely. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*  
To WEET. *v. n.* preterite *wet*, or *wote*. [from *weitan*, Saxon; *weten*,  
Dutch.] To know; to be informed; to have knowledge.  
Obsolete.  
Him the prince with gentle court did board;  
Sir knight, mought I of you this court'sy read,  
To *weet* why on your shield, so goodly fcor'd,  
Bear ye the picture of that lady's head? *Spenser.*  
I bind,  
On pain of punishment, the world to *weet*  
We stand upon perils. *Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
But well I *weet* thy cruel wrong  
Adorns a nobler poet's song. *Prior.*  
WEETLESS. *adj.* [from *weet*.] Unknowing. *Spenser.*  
WEVIL. *n. f.* [from *wevel*, Dutch.] A grub.  
A worm called a *weevil*, bred under ground, feedeth upon  
roots; as parsnips and carrots. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Corn is so innocent from breeding of mice, that it doth not  
produce the very *weevils* that live in it and consume it. *Bentley.*  
WEZEL. *n. f.* [See WEASEL.]  
I suck melancholy out of a fong, as a *weasel* sucks eggs. *Shak.*  
The corn-devouring *weasel* here abides,  
And the wife ant. *Dryden's Georg.*  
WEFT. The old preterite and part. pass. from *to weave*. *Spens.*  
WEFT. *n. f.* [from *weft*, French; *weft*, to wander, Islandick;  
*weft*, Latin.]  
1. That of which the claim is generally waved; any thing wan-  
dering without an owner, and seized by the lord of the manour.  
His horse, it is the herald's *weft*;  
No, 'tis a mare. *Ben. Johnson's Underwoods.*  
2. It is in *Bacon* for *weft*, a gentle blast.  
The smell of violets exceedeth in sweetness that of spices,  
and the strongest sort of smells are best in a *weft* air off. *Bac.*  
WEFT. *n. f.* [from *weft*, Saxon.] The woof of cloth.  
WEFTAGE. *n. f.* [from *weft*.] Texture.  
The whole muscles, as they lie upon the bones, might be  
truly tanned; whereby the *weftage* of the fibres might more  
easily be observed. *Greut's Museum.*  
To WEIGH. *v. a.* [from *weagan*, Saxon; *weylen*, Dutch.]  
1. To examine by the balance.  
Earth taken from land adjoining to the Nile, and preserved,  
so as not to be wet nor wasted, and *weighed* daily, will not alter  
weight until the seventeenth of June, when the river begin-  
neth to rise; and then it will grow more and more ponderous,  
'till the river cometh to its height. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Th' eternal hung forth his golden scales,  
Wherein all things created first he *weigh'd*. *Milton.*  
2. To be equivalent to in weight.  
By the exsuction of the air out of a glass-vessel, it made  
that vessel take up, or suck up, to speak in the common lan-  
guage, a body *weighing* divers ounces. *Boyle.*  
3. To pay, allot, or take by weight.  
They that must *weigh* out my afflictions,  
They that my trust must grow to, live not here;  
They are, as all my comforts are, far hence. *Shakespeare.*  
They *weighed* for my price thirty pieces of silver. *Lech. xi.*  
4. To raise; to take up the anchor.  
Barbarossa, using this exceeding cheerfulness of his soldiers,  
*weighed* up the fourteen galleys he had sunk. *Knolles.*  
Here he left me, ling'ring here delay'd  
His parting kifs, and there his anchor *weigh'd*. *Dryden.*  
5. To examine; to balance in the mind.  
Regard not who it is which speaketh, but *weigh* only what  
is spoken. *Hooker.*  
I have in equal balance justly *weigh'd*  
What wrongs our arms may do, what wrongs we suffer,  
And find our griefs heavier than our offences. *Shak. H. IV.*  
The ripeness or unripeness of the occasion must ever be well  
*weighed*. *Bacon.*  
His majesty's speedy march left that design to be better  
*weighed* and digested. *Clarendon.*  
You chose a retreat, and not 'till you had maturely *weighed*  
the advantages of rising higher, with the hazards of the  
fall. *Dryden.*  
All grant him prudent; prudence interest *weighs*,  
And interest bids him seek your love and praise. *Dryden.*  
The mind, having the power to suspend the satisfaction of  
any of its desires, is at liberty to examine them on all sides,  
and *weigh* them with others. *Locke.*

## WEI

- He is the only proper judge of our perfections, who *weighs*  
the goodness of our actions by the sincerity of our intentions.  
*Addison's Spectator.*  
6. To WEIGH down. To overbalance.  
Fear *weighs* down faith with shame. *Daniel's Civ. War.*  
7. To WEIGH down. To overburden; to oppress with weight;  
to depress.  
The Indian fig boweth so low, as it taketh root again; the  
plenty of the sap, and the softness of the stalk, making the  
bough, being overladen, *weigh* down. *Bacon.*  
In thy blood will reign  
A melancholy damp of cold and dry;  
To *weigh* thy spirits down. *Milton.*  
Her father's crimes  
Sit heavy on her, and *weigh* down her prayers;  
A crown usurp'd, a lawful king depos'd,  
His children murder'd. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*  
My soul is quite *weigh'd* down with care, and asks  
The soft refreshment of a moment's sleep. *Addison's Cato.*  
Excellent persons, *weighed* down by this habitual sorrow of  
heart, rather deserve our compassion than reproach. *Addison.*  
To WEIGH. *v. n.*  
1. To have weight.  
Exactly weighing and frangling a chicken in the scales, upon  
an immediate ponderation, we could discover no difference in  
weight; but suffering it to lie eight or ten hours, until it grew  
perfectly cold, it *weighed* most sensibly lighter. *Brown.*  
2. To be considered as important; to have weight in the intel-  
lectual balance.  
This objection ought to *weigh* with those, whose reading is  
designed for much talk and little knowledge. *Locke.*  
A wife man is then best satisfied, when he finds that the same  
argument which *weighs* with him has *weighed* with thousands  
before him, and is such as hath born down all opposition. *Addis.*  
3. To raise the anchor.  
When gath'ring clouds o'ershadow all the skies,  
And shoot quick lightnings, *weigh*, my boys, he cries. *Dry.*  
4. To bear heavily; to press hard.  
Can't thou not minister to a mind diseas'd,  
And with some sweet oblivious antidote  
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff  
Which *weighs* upon the heart? *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*  
WEIGHED. *adj.* [from *weigh*.] Experienced.  
In an embassy of weight, choice was made of some sad per-  
son of known experience, and not of a young man, not  
*weighed* in state matters. *Bacon.*  
WEIGHED. *n. f.* [from *weigh*.] He who weighs.  
WEIGHT. *n. f.* [from *weagan*, Saxon.]  
1. Quantity measured by the balance.  
Tobacco cut and *weighed*, and then dried by the fire, loseth  
*weight*; and, after being laid in the open air, recovereth *weight*  
again. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Fain would I chuse a middle course to steer;  
Nature's too kind, and justice too severe:  
Speak for us both, and to the balance bring,  
On either side, the father and the king:  
Heav'n knows my heart is bent to favour thee;  
Make it but scanty *weight*, and leave the rest to me. *Dryd.*  
Boerhaave fed a sparrow with bread four days, in which  
time it eat more than its own *weight*; and yet there was no  
acid found in its body. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*  
2. A mass by which, as the standard, other bodies are examined.  
Just balances, just *weights* shall ye have. *Lev. xix. 36.*  
Undoubtedly there were such *weights* which the physicians  
used, who, though they might reckon according to the *weight*  
of the money, they did not weigh their drugs with pieces of  
money. *Arbuthnot on Coins.*  
When the balance is intirely broke, by mighty *weights*  
fallen into either scale, the power will never continue long in  
equal division, but run intirely into one. *Swift.*  
3. Ponderous mass.  
A man leapeth better with *weights* in his hands than with-  
out; for that the *weight*, if proportionable, strengtheneth the  
sinews by contracting them; otherwise, where no contraction  
is needful, *weight* hindereth: as we see in horseraces, men are  
curious to foresee that there be not the least *weight* upon the  
one horse more than upon the other. In leaping with *weights*,  
the arms are first cast backwards, and then forwards, with so  
much the greater force. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Wolfey, who from his own great store might have  
A palace or a college for his grave,  
Lies here interr'd;  
Nothing but earth to earth, no pond'rous *weight*  
Upon him, but a pebble or a quoit:  
If thus thou lie'st neglected, what must we  
Hope after death, who are but shreds of thee? *Bp. Corbet.*  
All their confidence  
Under the *weight* of mountains bury'd deep. *Milton.*  
Pride, like a gulf, swallows us up; our very virtues, when  
so leavened, becoming *weights* and plummetts to sink us to the  
deeper ruin. *Government of the Tongue.*